FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: DOROTHY DANDRIDGE

CROSS-REFERENCES



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: DOROTHY DANDRIDGE

CROSS-REFERENCES

CONFIDENTIAL

2 - Orig. & dupl.
1 - Yellow
1 - Mr. Bates
1 - Section Tickler
1 - M. S. Cole

August 23, 1956

VIA LIAISON

SUMMARY

DOROTHY DANDRIDGE, also known as
Dorothy D. Nicholas
Born: November 9, 1922
Cleveland, Ohio
MRS. HAROLD NICHOLAS

No investigation has been conducted by the FBI relative to the captioned individual. However, our records reflect the following information concerning her:

On July 30, 1952, a confidential source furnished a letter dated July 22, 1952, written by Dorothy Dandridge to an official of Loew's, Inc. which pertained to articles which had appeared in the "Daily People's World," west coast communist newspaper. The pertinent portions of the letter follow:

"Certain newspaper reports have been brought to my attention which I would like to comment on.

"1. PW 3/14/47 - One Dorothy Dandridge will appear at a party Saturday night, March 22nd at 2118 Hobart Street, Los Angeles, auspices National Negro Congress.

"I appeared at this party believing that the National Negro Congress was associated with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), a well recognized organization. I went with my husband, Harold Nicholas. I went for social reasons and because I was interested in the Negro community. I honestly can't remember who asked me to attend.

"2. PW 6/30/47 Dorothy Dandridge among those who spoke at a series of rallies sponsored by the Progressive Citizens of America protesting the Taft-Hartley bill.

41 ENCLOSURE

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mason
Mohr
Parsons
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Tamm
Nease
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

M.S.Cole:men
(6)

RECORDED-41
INDEXED-41

62-6-527-47987

[redacted]

delivered 8-23-56 cmb

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
ON 9-10-93

"I did not speak, however, I was asked to sing by a member of the program committee, whose name I can't remember. As an entertainer, I have been asked by hundreds of organizations during the past seven years to appear at benefits, the names of the individuals requesting my appearance has long since been forgotten with this event as well as numerous others such as the Catholic Youth Organization, B'Ka_Brith Brotherhood Week, Red Cross, Cerebral Palsy, Heart Campaign, Pittsburgh Courier, Women's Clubs that I appeared on. I only remember this as one of over a hundred benefit appearances I have made and just another benefit.

"3. PE 9/17/47 - One Dorothy Dandridge, actress, on ballot for executive board of Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council.

"I was a member of the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council. I voluntarily became a member when I read that several prominent personalities in show business were active, such as Al Jarvis and Norman Corwin. I believed it would further my career and that it would help members of my race. I never held nor sought an office with this organization nor was I an active member. As I have not been participating in this nor paid any dues for many years, I have written them a letter of resignation as of this date so as to avoid there being any possibility of them considering me a member.

"4. PE 9/10/48 One Dorothy Dandridge student at Actors' Lab.

"Yes, I joined the Actors' Lab because this workshop was one of the few outlets available to a young actress of my race seeking actual workshop training. Attending the Lab was in direct relationship with my theatrical ambition.

"5. PE 9/4/51 One Dorothy Dandridge, young Negro Actress, student at the Lab has commented 'As an actress and student of the Lab, I am anxious to know whether Hedda Hopper considers the democratic policy of the Lab, wherein students are accepted on ability, a subversive policy. If she does, she advocates a policy which is un-American and subversive and fans the flames of race hatred.'

"I noticed the date of this alleged quotation is 1951. First of all, I was not a student at the Lab at this time and to

my knowledge the Lab was no longer in existence at this date. I recall one incident regarding Hedda Hopper while I was a student at the Lab. What Hedda Hopper said did affect me and I did express concern. However, the exact wording of this particular quotation is not the kind of language I use but I'm sure no one could object to my expressing concern.

"I would like to close by saying that I am not now nor ever have been a member of the Communist Party or Communist Party Political Association nor have I ever made any donations to these parties. Had I known that any of the above organizations would later be cited as Communistic and or subversive, I would never have participated. I have at no time been active politically. My sole interests are towards having a successful career and aiding my people." (Letter among many by various individu furnished by James F. O'Neil, Director of Publications, American *

In reference to Item 5 quoted above, our records reflect an article which appeared in the "Daily Worker," east coast communist newspaper dated September 22, 1948, captioned "Hedda Hopper Mapped for Anti-Negro Bias" which relates to the incident referred to by Miss Dandridge. (100-294936-A)

Regarding the organizations referred to by Miss Dandridge the National Negro Congress has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. The Progressive Citizens of America was cited by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1947 and 1948 reports. An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised on May 15, 1956, that until January 3, 1956, the Hollywood Arts, Sciences and Professions Council (HASP) was the California Chapter of the National Council of the Arts, Sciences and Professio (NCASP) in New York City and consistently followed the programs and policies of the parent organization. On January 3, 1956, the HASP officially dissolved by action of its executive committee and vote of its membership. The NCASP was cited as a "Communist front" by the Congressional Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1950 report. Actors Laboratory was cited as a "Communist venture" by the California Committee on Un-American Activities in its 1947 report.

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past reported on February 21, 1955, that an employee of the Sands Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, who was a gambler from the east coast, had advised the informant that Jack Entratter, part owner of the Sands Hotel and who was in charge of the Sands' Copa Room, found Nat King Cole and Dorothy Dandridge together in Cole's room at the hotel. Cole was appearing as a star in the Copa Room at the time. The informant stated that Entratter became furious with Cole for having an "affair" with Dorothy Dandridge and threatened him. Dandridge reportedly told

*Legion, which he asked be treated confidentially: 100-139754-977)

Entratter to forget the whole matter as she was Cole's color, too. The informant further advised that Entratter was formerly manager and part owner of the Copacabana in New York City and has reportedly spent a great deal of time and money promoting Dandridge's career and that Entratter considered her his girl friend. (CI SU-293-C; 62-75147-44-591)

On May 10, 1955, Agents of the FBI arrested Louis Arlan Kerr at New Orleans, Louisiana, on a federal warrant charging a violation of the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property Statut While being interviewed concerning the federal charge on which he was arrested, Kerr volunteered information that he was a homosexual. He furnished the names of 45 individuals with whom he claimed to have had homosexual relations since 1951. Kerr also stated that he had a long standing friendship with Dorothy Dandridge, Negro movie actress. However, he added that she was in no way a sex deviate. The reliability of Kerr is unknown. It is to be noted that he had previously been arrested on fraudulent check charges and had admitte receiving psychiatric treatment of an unknown nature in the past. (105-34074-1210X)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or nonclearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

NAME:	DANDRIDGE, Dorothy
AKA:	NICHOLAS, Dorothy D.
BORN:	9 November 1922
PLACE OF BIRTH:	Cleveland, Ohio
RESIDENCE:	Park Sheraton Hotel, N.Y.C.
EDUCATION:	High School, Los Angeles, Calif.
EMPLOYMENT:	Professional entertainer & actress Played lead in "Carmen Jones"

[redacted]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

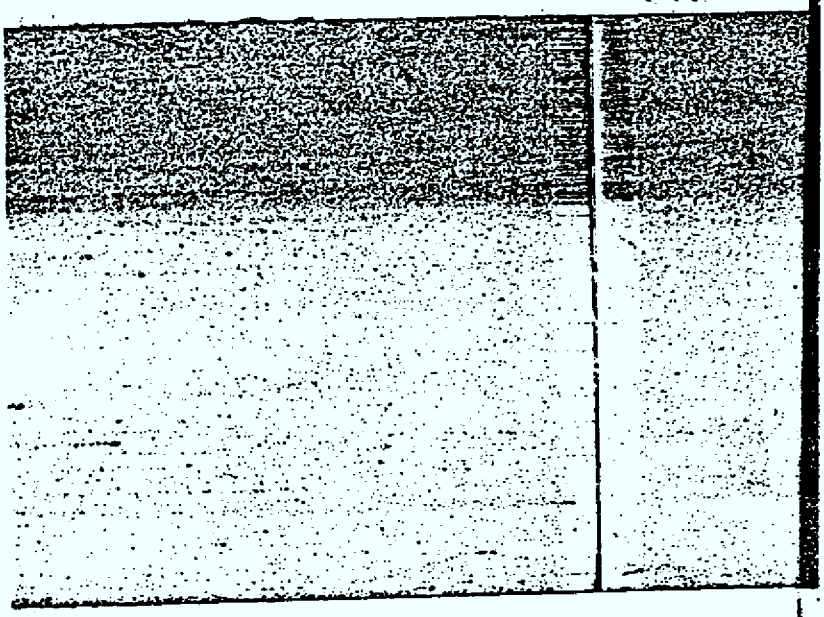
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11-9-92
Classified by 9803
[redacted]

b7C

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DATE 11-9-92 BY [redacted]

ENCLOSURE 62-60527-4798



4-22 (Rev. 3-22-56)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section

_____, 1956

- ☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523
- ☐ Service Unit - Room 6524
- ☐ Forward to File Review
- ☐ Attention [redacted] b7C
- ☑ Return to [redacted] - 764
  Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

- ☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
- ☑ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
- ☐ Subversive References Only
- ☐ Nonsubversive References Only
- ☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

- ☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
- ☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
- ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
- ☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

Subject Dandridge, Dorothy
Birthdate & Place
Address

Localities

R# _____ Date 8-20 Searcher Initials [redacted]

FILE NUMBER	SERIAL
[redacted]	
100-138754-977	b7C
105-34074-1210X ~6	
[redacted]	
62-75197-44-591	
100-294736-A-5.01	
9-22-48	
Nicholas, Dorothy D. (1K)	
Nicholas Dorothy	
[redacted]	b7C

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DATE 9-10-98 BY [redacted]

4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
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64F 211-221-2057 Ag 1 & 19

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FBI/DOJ

Report Form
FD-751 (5-12-48)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CONFIDENTIAL

Reporting Office	Office of Origin	Date	Investigative Period
LOS ANGELES	LOS ANGELES	1/15/58	1/2,3,6/58

TITLE OF CASE

[redacted] (F) b7c

Report made by [redacted] Typed B[redacted]

CHARACTER OF CASE

SECURITY MATTER - C b7c

Synopsis:

[redacted] 9-1 b1 (C)

- C -

Classified by [redacted] 1-9-92
Declassify on: OADR
348 [redacted]

DO NOT DISSEMINATE

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

RESIDENCE

[redacted] b7c

Approved [redacted] Special Agent in Charge

Do not write in spaces below

Copies made:
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3 - Los Angeles (100-35836)

100-392068-14 SE 1[illegible]

JAN 21 1958

RECORDED-11

INDEXED-11

CC T[redacted]
REQ. REC'[redacted]
CC[redacted]
ANS.
BY: [redacted]

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R472 JUN 27 1963

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☆ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1956 O—385319

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted] b1

FOREIGN TRAVEL

The "Los Angeles Tribune", a weekly Negro newspaper, pages 1 and 3, for June 5, 1957, carried an article reflecting that LEO BRANTON, Jr., left Los Angeles via TWA for Paris, France, arriving on June 5, 1957. The article stated that the trip was for the purpose of BRANTON consulting with his client, actress DOROTHY DANDRIDGE, who was then on the French Riviera. The article stated BRANTON's trip was for two weeks.

CALIF. FRANCE

[redacted] b7C b7C b7D

FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

FBI

Date: 5/24/63

CONFIDENTIAL

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL (Priority or Method of Mailing)

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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-630)

SUBJECT: RALLY AT WRIGLEY FIELD, SPONSORED BY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, ET AL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
5/26/63
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: LOS ANGELES

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 5/21/63.

Enclosed herewith are eight copies of a LHM setting forth additional information concerning captioned subject matter.

One copy of the LHM is being furnished to the 115th INTC, Region II, U.S. Army, Pasadena, California.

The LAPD is covering the rally. Arrangements have been made for the Los Angeles Office to be advised of what transpires at the rally and the Bureau will be advised immediately.

[redacted]

The LHM is designated as confidential to protect a confidential source of continuing value.

(3) - Bureau (Encl. -8) (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

ENCLOSURE

REC-52 157-6-26-90

(4) [redacted] G-2, ONI, CSL, CRD

Date Forw. 6-3-63

How Forw. [redacted]

By [redacted]

11 MAY 27 1963

#348 [redacted] 9/9/92

Classified by 98C [redacted]

Declassify on: OADR

Sent _____ M Per _____

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

62 JUN 10

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4-750 (Rev. 12-14-88)

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☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☒ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
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☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
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157-6-26-90 pg 1

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FBI/DOJ

CONFIDENTIAL

RALLY AT WRIGLEY FIELD, ETC.

[redacted] b1

CALIF.

[redacted]

Dorothy Dandridge, [redacted] mentioned above, are personalities in the motion picture industry. b7C b7D

ACTRESS CALIF.

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FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-56)

F B I

Date: 5/27/63

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Via AIRTEL ____________ AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (157-630)

RE: RALLY AT WRIGLEY FIELD,
SPONSORED BY NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF COLORED PEOPLE, ET AL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
~~5/26/63~~ Airport
RACIAL MATTERS
OO: LOS ANGELES

Re Los Angeles airtels to the Bureau dated 5/21 and 24/63 and teletype dated 5/26/63.

There are enclosed for the Bureau 8 copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth information regarding the captioned rally. One copy of this memorandum is being furnished to the 115th INTC, Region II, U. S. Army, Pasadena, California.

[redacted] b1

Agency G-2, ONI, OSI, CRD
Date Forw. 6-4-63
How Forw. [redacted] 6-94
By [redacted]

3-Bureau (AM)(RM)(Enc. 8)
1-Los Angeles
[redacted]
(4)

ENCLOSURE

(NOT)

REC [redacted] 6-26 — 9/23 org. unit

MAY 29 1963

b7C

#3484 [redacted]
9.10.92

C.C. - Wick

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Special Agent in Charge

CONFIDENTIAL

53 JUN 11 1963

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Los Angeles, California
May 27, 1963

RALLY AT WRIGLEY FIELD, SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, ET AL, LOS ANGELES
May 26, 1963

All of the sources used in this document have furnished reliable information in the past.

Sources advised that the rally for freedom in support of the Birmingham, Alabama movement filled Wrigley Field to near the capacity and that approximately 30,000 persons were in attendance. The meeting lasted from about 3:00 p. m. until 5:30 p. m. and it was described as the largest rally of its sort ever to be held in Los Angeles, California. The featured speaker was Reverend Martin Luther King, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, who spoke in support of the Birmingham non-violence movement. He commented on events in Birmingham and remarked that they would be helped by getting rid of segregation and discrimination in Los Angeles, California. King also stated that President Kennedy should personally escort Negro students into the University of Alabama and issue an executive order declaring that segregation is unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment.

There were numerous introductions and comments by people in the entertainment world. One of the more celebrated was Sammy Davis, Jr., who was reported to have pledged $20,000.00, which was said to represent one week's earnings in Las Vegas, Nevada. There were also various donations from individuals, churches, unions, and other organizations, and a collection was taken from the audience. These proceeds were requested for the Birmingham demonstrators. The other celebrities who participated were actresses Dorothy Dandridge, Joanne Woodward, Rita Moreno, and Davis's wife, May Britt. The actors included Tony Franciosa, Mel Ferrer, and Miss Woodward's husband, Paul Newman. Comedian Dick Gregory also spoke at the rally. California Governor Brown sent a message supporting the meeting which was read at the rally.

Sammy Davis
Mrs. Paul Newman

Davis, Mrs. Sammy
Davis Jr.

#318482

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-9-82 BY 1803

b7C